

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 22, 2004. Claims 1 to 7, 9, 10 and 12 to 19 remain pending in the application, with Claims 8 and 11 having been canceled. Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 16 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 19 was objected to for an informality, and Claims 11 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended giving due consideration to the points noted in the Office Action. Withdrawal of the objection and the § 112 rejections are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 7 to 12 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,115,132 (Nakatsuma), and Claims 2 to 4, 6, 13 to 15 and 17 to 19 were rejected under § 103(a) over Nakatsuma in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,006,332 (Rabne). Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns printing of print data. According to the invention, a first information processor transfers job data, including print data and attribute information, to a second information processor and to an output device (e.g., a printer) where the print data and attribute information are stored. If the output device receives attribute information from the second information processor, stored print data that corresponds to the stored and received attribute information is printed out. As a result, the print data is only printed out upon receipt by the printer of the proper attribute (authentication) information from the second information processor.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a job processing system comprising first and second information processors, and an output device, wherein the first information processor comprises job issuing means for transferring to the output device job data, including print data and attribute information which is used to start outputting the print data, and notifying means for notifying the second information processor of the attribute information for the job data transferred from the first information processor to the output device, wherein the second information processor comprises job execution designating means for designating execution designation information including the attribute information to the output device, and the output device comprises storage means for storing received job data, and control means for outputting print data stored in the storage means if the attribute information of the execution designation information corresponds to the attribute information stored in the storage means.

Amended independent Claim 7 is a method claim, amended independent Claim 9 is a system claim, amended independent Claim 10 is a control method for a system claim, each of which substantially corresponds to Claim 1.

Claim 12 is directed more specifically to the printer and thus is a printing apparatus connected to a network, comprising first receiving unit adapted to receive print data and authentication information for executing printing of the print data from a first client terminal on the network, storage unit adapted to store received print data, print job managing unit adapted to store and manage the authentication information for the received print data, second receiving unit adapted to receive, from a second client terminal on the network, authentication information which is sent from the first client terminal to the

second client terminal, and printing unit adapted to print, when authentication information received by the second receiving unit corresponds to the authentication information received by the first receiving unit, print data corresponding to the authentication information.

Amended independent Claim 16 is a control method for a printing apparatus substantially corresponding to Claim 12.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 16, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a first information processor transferring print data and attribute information to an output device and to a second information processor, and the output device outputting the print data if attribute information is received from the second information processor which corresponds to the attribute information received from the first information processor.

Nakatsuma merely discloses that a print instruction (PRINT START INSTRUCTION) is transferred from a virtual server 101 to a client PC 102, and print data is transferred from the client PC 102 to a network printer 104. Assuming *arguendo* that the client PC 102, the virtual server 101, and the network printer 105 could be seen to correspond to first and second information processors and an output device, respectively, the virtual server 101 (second information processor) does not transfer attribute information received from the client PC (first information processor) to the printer (output device). Moreover, assuming *arguendo* that the virtual server 101 and the client PC 102 could be seen to correspond respectively to the first information processor and the second information processor, the virtual server does not transfer print data to the network printer.

Accordingly, Nakatasuma is not seen to even be capable of printing print data only if attribute information received from the second information processor matches attribute information received from the first information processor. Therefore, Nakatasuma is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a first information processor transferring print data and attribute information to an output device and to a second information processor, and the output device outputting the print data if attribute information is received from the second information processor which corresponds to the attribute information received from the first information processor.

Rabne is not seen to add anything that, when combined with Nakatasuma, would have disclosed or suggest the features of the present invention. In this regard, Rabne is merely seen to disclose the use of rights and authentication information for accessing digital media. However, Rabne, like Nakatasuma, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of a first information processor transferring print data and attribute information to an output device and to a second information processor, and the output device outputting the print data if attribute information is received from the second information processor which corresponds to the attribute information received from the first information processor.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Claims 1 to 7, 9, 10 and 12 to 19 are believed to be allowable.

As a formal matter, Applicant notes that the Office Action did not include an indication acknowledging Applicant's claim to priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, or receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents, which were filed on July 25, 2001.

Therefore, Applicant requests that the Examiner provide such and acknowledgment in the next communication.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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